

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Large corporate control of radio and television stations also contributes to the homogeneity of America. I am so sick of hearing the same old music over and over that I only listen to radio when I'm in my car - and it's usually NPR then. I also disagree with the ability of large corporate station owners to silence those who they disagree with, such as the Dixie Chicks. This is SUPPOSED to be America, correct ? (notice I didn't say right) How can we say, with a straight face, that we are exporting Democracy to the world when we are in the process of removing it at home?

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.